

BUSINESS STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Best Management Practices: Auto Repair and Detailing

Rain that falls on streets and parking lots, also known as stormwater, can carry oils, detergents, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals from the ground and into storm drains that lead straight to lakes, streams, or Puget Sound. This can pose health and safety risks to our community and environment.

As auto repair and auto detailing businesses, it's your duty to prevent drips and spills from vehicles from polluting our waters.

Take action to prevent pollution at its source to keep our waters safe and clean!



Learn more about pollution prevention requirements in [Seattle's Stormwater Code](#).

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Auto Repair or Auto Detail Businesses



- ✓ Carry out vehicle maintenance and repair work inside a building or under a hard cover. (Manual Volume 4, BMP 12)
- ✓ Expect engines to leak so use drip trays, containment pools, absorbent pads or other methods underneath vehicles to capture fluids during repair. (BMP 12)
- ✓ Clean all spills with absorbent materials; do not wash to drains. (BMP 5)
- ✓ Capture vehicle fluids in labeled containers with tight-fitting lids, and dispose of properly, either through a licensed waste hauler or take small quantities to a hazardous waste drop-off location
- ✓ Do not dispose of vehicle fluids or washwater into drains, the street, or onto the ground. (BMP 12)
- ✓ Autobody sanding and spray gun painting must be performed inside; either indoors or in a spray booth (contact Puget Sound Clean Air Agency).
- ✓ Place ground cloths under any minor spot painting/touch-ups. (BMP 23)

See the [next page](#) for general BMPs to prevent stormwater pollution. ►



General Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are processes that businesses, individuals and responsible parties in Seattle should implement to prevent pollutants from contaminating stormwater runoff and entering receiving waters. General BMPs are required for all real property, and additional BMPs are recommended for specific pollution generating activities.



Find and Protect Onsite Storm Drains

Find where water will flow from your work site and protect your storm drains to prevent pollutants from entering local waterways. Best practice is to move activities that could release oils, chemicals, detergents, or other pollutants away from locations that could lead to a storm drain, and properly contain pollutants.



Train Employees

Ensure your staff are properly trained in the following key practices:

- How to safely store and use chemicals and hazardous materials so they do not pollute the ground, drains, or waterways
- What can be washed and where so that soap, soil, oil, and other chemicals do not enter storm drains
- How to create a spill plan and clean all spills promptly



Order a
FREE
spill kit

Prevent and Clean Up Spills

Create and follow your spill prevention and clean-up plan. A spill can be a one-time event, a continuous leak, or frequent small spills. All types must be addressed.

If you have a spill, call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 386-1800.



Dispose of Fluids and Wastes

Responsible parties must properly dispose of solid and liquid waste, as well as contaminated stormwater and street waste. Depending on the type of waste, there are a few options for disposal:

1. Permitted centralized waste treatment facilities
2. Municipal solid waste and recycling facilities
3. Hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities

CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL LIST OF POLLUTION PREVENTION BMPs

Language Support

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

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통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000번으로 전화해 주십시오.

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